



THE TOKEN HUNTER

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DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING, RECORDING, AND PRESERVING
OF UTAH'S HISTORICAL MEDALS, TOKENS, COINS AND BOTTLES

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday,
March 28, 1996
7:15 p.m.
(Election of New President)

PROGRAM

Pat Mahoney
Member Utah Fife & Drum
Fort Douglas
SPEAKING ON UTAH'S
HISTORICAL FORTS

****PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ****

Promptness Prize 1945 Walking liberty Half
Grand Prize 1/20 oz. Gold Canadian Maple Leaf Coin

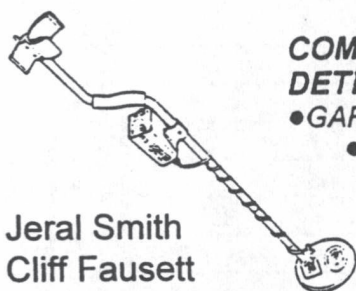
1885-0 Morgan Silver Dollar
Mutual Coal Co G/F 1-exploder--Mutual, Ut-----HR-8 \$35-45
L Barsotti G/F 5 cents--Ogden, Ut-----LR-6 \$12-35
Magna Drug Co G/F 5 cents--Magna, Ut-----HR-4 \$15-25
Joe Greens Tavern G/F 10 cents--SLC, Ut-----LR-7 \$15-30
Gold Label Liquor G/F 1-Drink of Whiskey--SLC, Ut-----HR-4 \$20-30
Blanding Trading Post G/F \$1.00--Blanding, Ut-----HR-2 \$15-25
Helper Club G/F 50 cents--Helper, Ut-----LR-2 \$10-20
Eureka Meat Produce G/F 50 cents--Eureka, Ut-----LR-2 \$12-22
W.A. Bond G/F 1-Drink or Cigar--Modena, Ut-----LR-7 \$55-65
Spriggs & Crooks G/F 5 cents--Park City, Ut-----LR-1 \$8-16
Wilburne Jensen G/F 25 cents--Hyrum, Ut-----HR-7 \$24-38
Madsen Amusement Co G/F 1 cent--SLC, Ut-----HR-9 \$6-12

We had 76 entries for the FOM and from what I could read, it looked like we had some real nice finds. I am sorry (ha ha) that I could not be there. I had to go to the beaches of Mexico. I did not have the time to detect but I did find a pocketfull of Pesos in the hour that I did detect. The people down there (La Penita, Mexico) had never seen a detector before and were very curious about it. Several of the locals told me stories of buried Gold left by Pirates or Relatives and I was invited to be taken to these sites to search. All the local residents wanted in return was 50% of anything found. It sounds like good potential for my next trip. The people down there were really great and I made some friends there. (I just need to learn the language now). Well enough of this, now back to NUTS business. After going over the FOM entries (not enough help at meeting) a couple of errors were found and corrected. The results for 1st place in the categories are:

U.S. Coin-----Jeral Smith-- 1914-D Barber Dime
 Foreign Coin-----Brian Westover-- 1875 Hong Kong Cent
 Token-----Chris Benson-- Fort Douglas Canteen G/F 10 cents
 Jewelry-----Two way tie between:
 Mary Smith-- Silver Freedom Eagle Ring
 Eric Hubbard--Gold Ring with 2 amber stones & 2 diamonds
 Artifact-----Bruce Dugger--1897 Golden Gate Carnival Piece
 Button-----Three way tie between:
 Bruce Dugger--Minuet Dancers
 Helen Epstein--Celuloid
 Chris Benson--Civil War
 Non-Metal-----Jeral Smith--Akro Agate Marble
 Peoples Choice Bottle----Helen Epstein--Perfume bottle
 Oldest U.S. Coin-----Bruce Dugger--1903 Barber Dime
 Oldest U.S. Cent-----Bruce Dugger--1888 Indian Head
 Most Valuable U.S Coin--Jeral Smith--1870 Indian Head
 Most Valuable Bottle-----Helen Epstein--Cutter Chemicals



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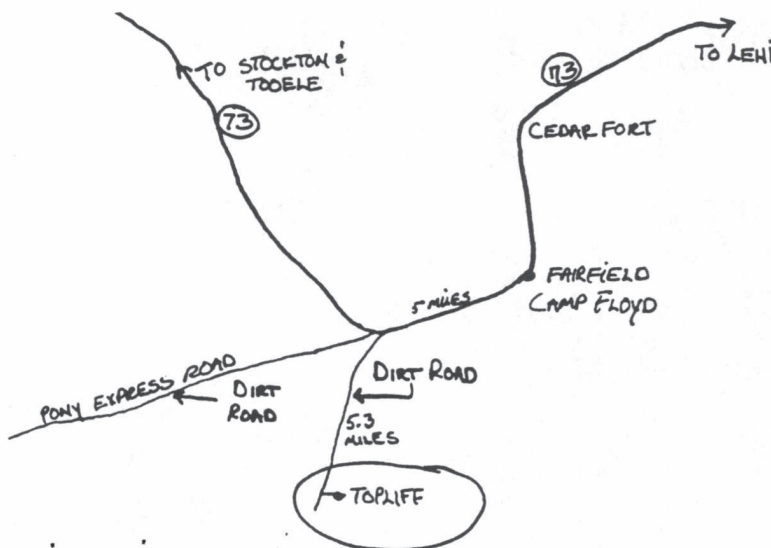
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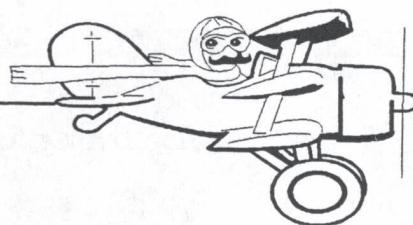
DETECTING TRIP TO TOPLIFF

The first club outing for 1996 is scheduled for April 13-14 to the ghost town of Topliff, Utah. Topliff was established in the 1870's to provide lime for smelters in the Rush and Salt Lake Valleys. The town arose within the shadows of the lime quarry. In building the rail line to the Tintic mines, the Salt Lake and Western Railroad laid track that ran about a mile west of Topliff with a spur running into the town. In its prime, a car-load of crushed lime was shipped out of Topliff each day. Structures included residences, railroad buildings, water towers, and office buildings. The town's life-cycle began a downward spiral when smelting operations terminated in 1913. The town clung to life until 1937 when the rail line was removed and houses were moved to Fairfield and Lehi.

Topliff is reached by heading south on Redwood Road until it turns into State Highway 73. Continue on Highway 73 to Fairfield. Five miles past Fairfield is an unimproved road that heads south by south-west (the turnoff is two-tenths of a mile past the Tooele County Line). Travel on this unimproved road for 5.3 miles to the water tower foundations and the location of the old train depot. Turn east and travel eight-tenths of a mile to Topliff that is identified by building foundations, scattered purple glass, old lumber, and hopefully tokens, coins, and artifacts (however, be prepared to detect through rusted cans and a seemingly infinite number of spent bullet casings). Don't forget to bring an adequate supply of drinking water. See you there!



ELECTION OF NEW CLUB PRESIDENT



Due to family and job commitments, Jason Connolly has had to withdraw as President. We appreciate his efforts and respect his decision. Consequently, we need to nominate and elect a new President. The President is responsible for the overall direction of the Club and she or he plans the program for Club meetings. The President usually introduces the program and otherwise conducts the monthly meeting. While most monthly programs involve a speaker, they can be anything of general interest to Club members including demonstrations of detecting equipment or techniques, preservation of coins or artifacts, how to display your finds, research resources, slide shows of detecting trips to exotic or interesting locations, treasure hunting videos, field trips, competition hunts, etc. Furthermore, with the June coin show, the August picnic, and the December Christmas program, this year's President need only plan six programs (actually five if someone will take Kevin Anderson up on his offer to do a demonstration on detecting accessories). The time commitment is no more than a few hours a month. All you need is commitment, imagination, and a vision of what you want the Club to be. Please give some serious consideration to serving in this capacity.

The N.U.T.S. Club needs **you!**

All About Coins



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PRODUCT TEST: THE TINYTEC HAND-HELD DETECTOR



BY KEVIN ANDERSON

In recent years, hand-held metal detecting probes have come on the market to assist detectorists with target recovery. This Christmas, I bought the Tinytec model after reading about it in *Western & Eastern Treasures*. The Tinytec sells for about \$90.00, and, while that is expensive, these mini-detectors can be one of the most useful accessories you can buy.

As seen in the illustration at the end of this article, the probe is about eight inches long with the last two inches making up the detecting surface. You can either use the end for precise pinpointing or the side to sweep larger areas. A 9-volt battery powers the probe and should give 30-40 hours of operation. This period may be extended because of the auto-off feature described below.

The probe is activated by a thumb-wheel switch that is also used to adjust balance and sensitivity. When you first turn the switch, the probe clicks on and begins buzzing (if the auto-off switch is activated, the probe must be pointed downward). You keep turning the wheel until just past the point when the buzzing stops. The probe is now balanced and ready to detect. You can get more precise "ground balance" by holding the probe against the dirt while adjusting the wheel. I check to see if the probe is working by passing it over my watch made from a Walking Liberty Half-Dollar. The Tinytec is very stable, and further adjustments are not required during a detecting session.

When the probe detects a metal object (the probe is an all-metal, non-motion detector), it will buzz and the LED will light. Since the buzzer is built into the handle, it pulsates against your hand. I use the vibration more than anything else to sense a detected object. After buying the probe, I received a letter from the manufacturer saying that for \$5.00 they would install a switch to silence the buzzer with the only signal coming from the LED. Because I like the vibration from the buzzer, and because you can muffle the sound with your hand, I did not take advantage of this option. However, I understand it will be standard on future models.

The detection range of the Tinytec is about 1.5 to 2 inches on coins. While this doesn't sound like much, it is perfectly adequate for most purposes. One of my favorite uses for the Tinytec is to locate coins just under the surface. Before, when I detected a coin at one or two inches, I would pull out my probe and lightly tap the grass to locate the target. Sometimes my pinpointing was right on, but often it would take a number of tries to locate the coin. With the Tinytec you simply sweep the ground with the tip, and in a matter of seconds the target is located. This has saved a lot of recovery time.

If the target is 3 to 5 inches deep, I pinpoint carefully and then cut a single slit in the grass about 4 to 5 inches long. I insert the Tinytec into the slit and work it around until I get a signal, then I use a screw-driver to lever the coin out of the slit. This

minimizes damage to grass, prevents scratching the coin with a metal probe, and saves recovery time (how often has your probe hit a target that turned out to be a rock or piece of glass?)

If the target is more than 5 inches deep, I cut a small U-shaped plug that is flipped over and held in place with my metal probe. I then dig sideways and down making the hole larger than the size of the plug (be sure to put the excavated dirt on a towel or piece of plastic so that all of it can be poured back into the hole when you are done). If the coin is not immediately found, I insert the Tinytec and use a stirring motion to cover the bottom and sides of the hole. This really works well since the Tinytec tells you if the coin is deeper or on the sides of the hole. If a target is not detected in the hole, then I use the side of the probe to sweep the removed dirt. Clad and copper coins often take on the appearance of dirt, and I am constantly surprised at how coins can camouflage themselves in even a small pile of earth. The Tinytec sniffs out concealed coins in a matter of seconds. It is also great for finding that elusive piece of trash that always disappears or disintegrates as you dig.

Another frustration I had was probing for targets that I hoped were rings but more often turned out to be pull-tabs. Since the surface area of a ring or pull-tab is small, they are hard to find with a metal probe. Using the Tinytec, you can quickly locate a target regardless of its size. When I detected an old fishing resort on a northern California lake, I kept getting signals from lead sinkers that read as coins. Because of their size and color, they were almost impossible to see in the coarse gravel, and they passed right through my sand scoop. It was one of the those situations where you get a strong signal but cannot locate the target. With the Tinytec, I could have found the sinkers in a matter of seconds and saved a lot of time.

The Tinytec was also handy when I have found a child's "cache" of dimes and quarters buried in a rusted Band-Aid box in Sugar House Park. Rather than finding a coin and then rechecking with the detector, I just kept stirring with the Tinytec until all the coins were found (about a dozen).

My kids have also enjoyed using it. They follow me as I search and then "swoop" in with the Tinytec to find and recover the target. On a recent trip to Moab, they enjoyed stirring it through the red sand at a private campground. With just the Tinytec, they found modern coins, some inexpensive jewelry, and a number of tent stakes.

Another potential use for the Tinytec would be to detect inside wall spaces, door jams, or other areas with limited access. You might even try running it along the spine of old books where someone may have stashed a few coins.

While the Tinytec is quite sturdy, it is not intended to be forced into the ground like a metal probe. If you do dig in the ground with it, you should hold it by the shaft rather than the handle. As described above, I use my digger or a screw driver to loosen the soil before checking with the Tinytec.

For a small piece of equipment, the Tinytec comes with a number of nice features. For example, there is a battery-saver switch that turns off the probe when it is pointed upward. This is accomplished with a simple mercury switch (when the probe is pointed upward, a drop of liquid mercury slips from two metal wires cutting the power circuit). This not only saves batteries, but it also keeps the probe from detecting your digging equipment, belt buckle, watch, ring or other metal object while you are searching. There is also a small light at the end of the handle that is activated with a push-button. I used the light one evening, and it was more than enough to illuminate the inside of a hole.

The Tinytec comes with a battery, instructions, and one-year warranty. For about \$5.00 you can order a vinyl carrying case that attaches to your belt. I ordered the case, but the Tinytec fits so easily in my converted tool belt, that I don't use the case.

The Tinytec has really made target recovery quick, simple and fun while minimizing damage to the grass. Next to my detector, it is my favorite detecting tool.

